



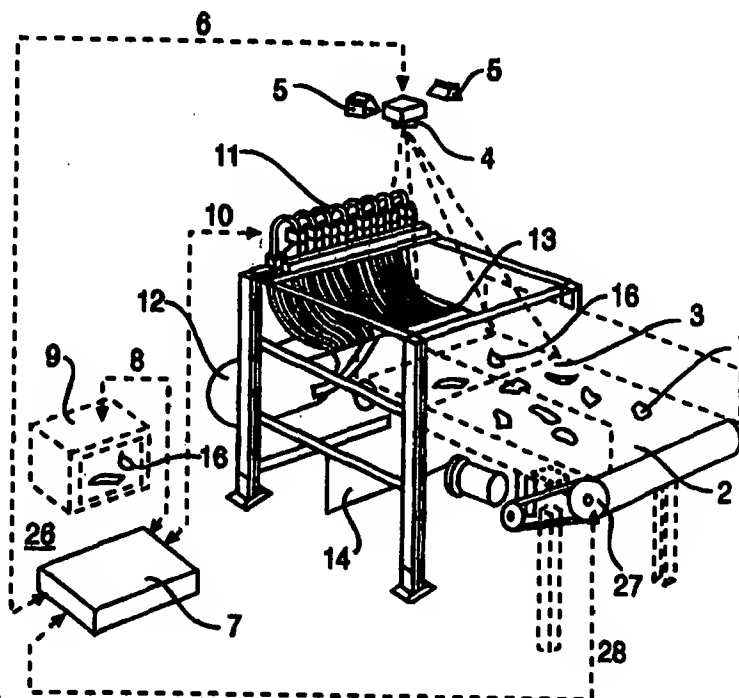
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(54) Title: TELEOPERATED ROBOTIC SORTING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus are disclosed for classifying materials (16) utilizing a computerized touch sensitive screen (9) or other computerized pointing device for operator identification and electronic marking of spatial coordinates of materials (16) to be extracted. An operator positioned at a computerized touch sensitive screen (9) views electronic images of the mixture of materials (16) to be sorted as they are conveyed past a sensor array (4) which transmits sequences of images of the mixture, either directly or through a computer to the touch sensitive display screen (9). The operator manually "touches" objects displayed on the screen (9) to be extracted from the mixture thereby registering the spatial coordinates of the objects within the computer. The computer then tracks the registered objects as they are conveyed and directs automated devices including mechanical means such as air jets (15), robotic arms (18), or other mechanical diverters to extract the registered objects.



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